

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

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SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 1 JULY 1954

TO : Chief, EE

FROM : Chief, FOB

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OPERATIONAL/CART/CALL

SPECIFIC— Return to West Germany of Wartime Defectors to Soviets

1. [ ] Recently reported the following information which may be of interest:  
(Former Luftwaffe Lieutenant) Hans BEERENBROCK recently returned to western Germany and is at present living at Borkenberge near Duelsdorf, Westphalia, where he is working as a mason. In 1942 the BEERENBROCK Affair became a sensation in Luftwaffe circles. On 22 November of that year BEERENBROCK took off in his ME 109 in the vicinity of Leningrad and flew voluntarily over to the Russians. Previously, BEERENBROCK had been a prominent Luftwaffe ace, having shot down more than 100 enemy planes and having received the Ritter Kreuz with Oak Leaves. The Soviets fully exploited the propaganda value of the event, and used BEERENBROCK as a tactics instructor for the Russian fighter force. A marked improvement in Russian fighter tactics afterward was attributed by Luftwaffe circles to BEERENBROCK's teaching. BEERENBROCK had spent a large part of his youth in the USSR. His father was a German engineer who worked for a long time in the Soviet Union; and his mother is Russian. He speaks the language fluently.
2. [ ] Obtained the above information in the course of a private conversation with Dipl. Ing. Frau HUBERT, head of a glider school located in Borkenberge. BEERENBROCK had recently visited the school. [ ] has given the above information to the BfV. He will keep us informed of further developments.

APPROVED

30 June 1954

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